

Marines SAVED ROUNDS

Marines Return to Iraq

By Headquarters Marine Corps Public Affairs, Washington

Marines and Sailors are back in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom II. From March 2004 to March 2005, they will conduct security and stability operations in western Iraq to help the Iraqi people establish a unified Iraq that is stable and at peace with itself and its neighbors.

"This is an important time in Marine Corps history," said Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Mike Hagee. "We are successfully demonstrating our ability to execute missions in a wide variety of environments across the full spectrum of operations. We are working closely with coalition forces to fight our nation's enemies in the Global War on Terrorism, and we will continue to answer the call until our mission is complete."

Approximately 25,000 Marines and Sailors will deploy to Iraq, according to Col. Doug Stilwell, deputy director of Operations Division, Plans, Policies and Operations, HQMC. "We're talking about nine maneuver battalions and required combat support and combat service support."

For OIF II, the Corps will operate in an organic Marine Air Ground Task Force in two seven-month rotations. The first rotation is expected to be March to September 2004. The second rotation is expected to be September 2004 to March 2005. The Corps will send a division-sized Marine Air Ground Task Force to Iraq with the majority of units coming from I MEF, headquartered at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Marines will primarily relieve the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and 82nd

Airborne Division.

"In preparation for OIF II, we have analyzed lessons learned from our experiences in conducting security and stability operations from March to September 2003, and recent Army lessons learned," said Gen. Hagee. "We have assimilated these lessons through a

comprehensive training package that includes tactics, techniques, procedures for stability and counter-insurgency operations."

Before returning to Iraq, units conducted SASO training in a vacant family housing area near March Air Reserve Base in Southern California. The

weeklong training focused on preparing Marines for contingencies they may encounter in Iraq. The training began at the small unit, or squad and platoon level, to gradually sharpen unit cohesion and build skills. It concluded with a battalion-sized field exercise that enabled units to practice and test their capabilities to conduct typical missions associated with operations in an urban environment.

Marines also receive Arabic language immersion training, and all deploying Marines and Sailors receive cultural education.

Although most units are coming from I MEF, Marines and Sailors from across the globe will participate. Approximately 5,000 Marines from II MEF, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and approximately 3,000 Marines from III MEF, based in Okinawa, Japan, are also participating. The reserve component of the first seven-month rotation will include about 3,000 Marines and the second rotation will be about 3,500.

Embedded journalists are also returning to Iraq. About two dozen journalists from U.S.-based newspapers and TV stations will be embedded with the units.

"Going back to Iraq is part of the job," said Gunnery Sgt. Andrew Lewis, of the Camp Lejeune-based 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines. "The hardest part (for my family) is knowing that I will be gone for a length of time." He added that he saw the mission as similar to the peacekeeping operations he participated in during his last deployment in Kosovo. **M**



▲ CAMP VICTORY, Kuwait – Lance Cpl. Samuel E. Irvine counts belts of ammunition to be distributed to Marines conveying to Iraq from Camp Victory March 2. The 20-year-old Bakersfield, Calif., native is a field wireman with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. Vehicle convoys, carrying Marines and gear with I Marine Expeditionary Force, have been steadily streaming into Iraq to relieve Army units.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

It's Time to 'Boot' Certain Uniform Items

By Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington

Those old combat boots have to be "booted" after Oct. 1.

Among the boots to go are the green jungle boots, the black jungle boots and the optional black boots as described in paragraph 3012.2E of Marine Corps Order P1020.34G.

Beginning Oct. 1, all Marines must own the hot and temperate versions of the new tan rough-side-out boots—the Marine Corps Combat Boot.

These will be the only boots authorized for wear, other than safety or special issue boots as prescribed by commanders. Even though Marines have until October to get the new boots, March 1 marked the date after which black combat boots can only be worn with the old camouflage utility uniform. MCCBs may continue to be worn with either the old camouflage or the new digital-pattern combat utility uniforms.

Due to the high demand, these new boots have been difficult to find. But, thanks to the approval of the Marine Corps Combat Boot Optional Boot Program, which was announced in Marine Administrative Message 112/04, these boots should soon be easier to come by, said Mary Boyt, a project manager with the Marine Corps Uniform Board, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

The program requires manufacturers to submit a prototype of their boots to Marine Corps Systems Command for approval and certification as authorized boots before selling to Marines. Approved optional boots will have a Marine Corps eagle, globe and anchor emblem on the outside of the heel and an approval certification number on the inside tongue of the boot.

"If the optional boot doesn't have both of these items it

> The only boots authorized after Oct. 1 are the hot and temperate versions of the new tan rough-side-out boots.



isn't authorized and cannot be worn," Boyt said.

"The optional MCCBs will look exactly like the issued boot except in the sole area—we are trying to take advantage of new sole technology and open up boot availability."

Currently only two manufacturers have been authorized to sell optional Marine Corps Combat Boots. Belleville Shoe Manufacturing is authorized to sell both the hot weather and temperate version of the boot and Bates Uniform Footwear has been authorized to sell

the hot weather.

When purchasing optional MCCBs at base uniform stores or an off-base stores, verify that the boots in question are authorized for wear in uniform before purchasing them, said Maj. Renee Holmes, project leader with Marine Corps Systems Command. "It would be a shame for a Marine to spend (a lot of money) on boots he won't be authorized to wear in uniform."

The bottom line is make sure optional boots are authorized before buying them. **M**

President Authorizes Two New Medals for War on Terrorism

A presidential executive order dated March 12 authorizes the Department of Defense to create two new military medals for service in the Global War on Terrorism.

The GWOT Expeditionary Medal will recognize service members who participate in an expedition to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This is limited to those who deploy as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The GWOT Service Medal will recognize service in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This is limited to those service members who

provide support to Operation Enduring Freedom from outside the area of eligibility designated for the GWOT Expeditionary Medal.

The medals were recommended by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld "in response to our Nation's global efforts to suppress terrorism, and the significant contributions members of the Armed Forces bring to bear on the long-term resolution of this threat."

Specific eligibility for these medals will be established by DoD award policy. The combatant commander has the authority to award the

medals for approved operations to units and personnel deployed within his or her theater. Each service department will prescribe the appropriate regulations for processing and wearing of the medals.

Members of the U.S. armed forces and Coast Guard are eligible for the medals to include Reserve and National



Guard activated to support approved operations. Civilians, foreign nationals and foreign military are not eligible.

It will take up to 12 months to produce and stock the medal in department supply systems.

Future authorization for these medals will be considered and approved by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff if the war on terrorism expands. **M**